

## CLAIMS

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A test meter for a digital signal distribution system comprising:
  - a front end operative to acquire a digital signal carried by the digital signal distribution system;
  - signal conditioning circuitry in communication with said front end so as to receive the acquired digital signal and operative to apply signal conditioning to the digital signal according to any one of a plurality of digital standards; and
  - a digital demodulator in communication with said signal conditioning circuitry and operative to apply any one of various digital demodulation decoding schemes to obtain a demodulated signal.
2. The test meter of claim 1, wherein the plurality of digital standards comprise ITU-T J.83 Annex A, Annex B, and Annex C and the various digital demodulation decoding schemes comprise QAM and QAM variants.
3. The test meter of claim 1, wherein said signal conditioning circuitry comprises a first filter and a second filter.
4. The test meter of claim 3, wherein said first filter comprises a SAW filter operative to filter a first bandwidth according to a first digital standard, and said second filter comprises a SAW filter operative to filter a second bandwidth according to a second digital standard.

5. The test meter of claim 4, wherein said first digital standard comprises ITU-T J.83 Annex A and said second composite color standard comprises ITU-T J.83 Annex B.

6. The test meter of claim 5, further comprising a user interface operative to allow a user to select any one of the plurality of digital standards.

7. The test meter of claim 1, wherein said digital demodulator is operative to apply any selected one of various digital demodulation decoding schemes to said digital standard signal to obtain a demodulated signal.

8. The test meter of claim 7, wherein said test meter further includes a user interface operative to allow a user to select any one of the various digital demodulation decoding schemes.

9. The test meter of claim 8, wherein the various digital demodulation decoding schemes comprises QAM and QAM variants.

10. A test meter for a digital cable television system comprising:

a front end operative to obtain a digital television signal from a point in the digital cable television system;

signal conditioning circuitry in communication with said front end so as to receive the obtained digital television signal and operative to selectively apply signal conditioning to said obtained digital television signal according to any one of multiple digital standards to obtain a digital standard signal;

a digital demodulator in communication with said signal conditioning circuitry so as to receive said digital standard signal and operative to selectively apply any one of multiple digital demodulation schemes to obtain a demodulated signal; and

selection circuitry in communication with said signal conditioning circuitry and said digital demodulator and operative to select a digital standard of the multiple digital standards for application by said signal conditioning circuitry and to select a digital demodulation scheme of the multiple digital demodulation schemes for application by said digital demodulator.

11. The test meter of claim 10, wherein said selection circuitry comprises a user interface operative to allow user selection of the various selections.

12. The test meter of claim 12, wherein said signal conditioning circuitry comprises a filter for each of the multiple digital standards.

13. The test meter of claim 12, wherein said signal conditioning circuitry comprises a first filter corresponding to a first digital standard and a second filter corresponding to a second digital standard.

14. The test meter of claim 13, wherein said first filter is a SAW filter corresponding in bandwidth to an ITU-T J.83 Annex A digital standard, and said second filter is a SAW filter corresponding in bandwidth to a an ITU-T J.83 Annex B digital standard.

15. The test meter of claim 10, wherein the multiple digital demodulation decoding schemes comprises QAM and QAM variants.

16. A method of analyzing a digital signal carried by a digital signal distribution system, comprising:

coupling a test meter to a point in the digital signal distribution system;

obtaining via the test meter a digital signal carried by the digital signal distribution system;

selecting via the test meter a digital standard from multiple digital standards to apply to the obtained digital signal;

applying via the test meter the selected digital encoding standard to the signal to obtain a digital standard signal;

selecting via the test meter a demodulation scheme from multiple demodulation schemes to apply to the digital standard signal; and

applying via the meter the selected demodulation scheme to the digital standard signal to obtain a demodulated signal for analyzing of various parameters thereof.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the multiple digital standards comprise ITU-T J.83 Annex A, Annex B, Annex C.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the multiple demodulation schemes comprise QAM and QAM variants.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the selecting steps are performed via a user interface.